

TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 1 Nr. 24

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

December 7, 2005



Local Christmas Markets

See page 10

News in brief

Security Augmentation Forces

3rd Bde Vilseck is providing Soldiers to serve as Security Augmentation Forces for the Graf and Vilseck communities. These Soldiers are identified by the black arm-band (SAF) and wear Battle Dress Uniforms, Kevlar, Body Armor, and M-16 rifles.

The presence of these patrols around your areas should not be cause for alarm, and are only conducting normal routine patrol schedules during all hours of the day and night. Tenant units perform the duties of SAF, formerly known as Random Antiterrorism Teams, as Soldiers are available in the Community and are meant to enhance our Force Protection Posture.

For questions or concerns on the SAF, please contact DPTMS Force Protection at 475-8826.

Vilseck Holiday Tree Lighting Dec. 8

Starts 5:15 p.m., next to the Health Clinic. Enjoy the Christmas spirit with German & American choirs, bands and free refreshments. Kids will get a surprise from Sankt Nikolaus and Santa Claus.

CFC donations still accepted

Although the campaign ended Dec. 2 and solicitations ceased, donations are still being accepted through Dec. 19. If you haven't donated yet, please do so now.

Trouble readjusting?

Are you having difficulties readjusting after your deployment? Are you drinking too much, having arguments with your family and friends?

"Seeking Safety – Repairing the Armor." is a series of classes about learning coping skills. Come to a session at the Vilseck FRG building (273) Dec. 14, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

POC: Amy Parke, Social Work Services, 476-2100, 09662-83-2100

Holiday party for all

USAG Grafenwoehr Holiday Party Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vilseck's Dagestein Castle. Euro 10 for adults, Euro 5 for kids for buffet luncheon. Visit by Santa 12:30 p.m.; gifts for the kids. For info contact Public Affairs at DSN 475-1600.

Catch comic in Vilseck

Comedian Rich Little is appearing at the Vilseck post theater Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m. Little is dubbed "the best impressionist in the world." With supervisor's ok, employees are encouraged to attend as part of work day.

Christmas tree sale

Boy Scout Troop 261 will have fresh cut Christmas trees available for the holidays. The tree lot will be set up adjacent to the Graf bowling alley and be open the following hours: Dec. 10-11. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday noon-3 p.m.

Ornament exchange

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club would like to invite you to an Ornament Exchange. Noon on Dec. 14 at Zur Post in Velburg. Bring an ornament. For more info and to RSVP contact Tammy Bagdasarian at CIV 09472-911787 or tammybagdasarian@hotmail.com.

COLA changes to phase-in Jan. 1

USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – U.S. Army Europe Soldiers will see adjustments to their Cost of Living Allowance beginning Jan. 1. The Department of Defense announced in September that COLA will adjust by two to 14 points in Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. After implementation, the adjustments range from an increase of nine percent to a decrease of nearly 37 percent, depending on location.

Col. Michael Bendich, rear commander of 266th Finance Command, said based on the established regulatory timeframe, the new COLA rates should have become effective Nov. 16.

"Because many service members will receive a reduction in COLA based upon the survey results, implementation of the new COLA rates was delayed until after the holiday season, when it will coincide with the 2006 military pay raise," he said.

COLA is a non-taxable allowance paid to members living in high cost areas outside the continental United States to help them maintain the equivalent purchasing power of their CONUS-based counterparts.

Bendich said implementing the new COLA rates is the final step in a fairly lengthy process.

From May 16 to June 17, he said, online COLA Living Pattern Surveys gathered data about where, and in what quantities, service members and their families purchased goods and services. Based on the survey data, community representatives visited businesses and collected price samples for goods and services typically purchased by service members and their families.

The pricing samples were then submitted to the Department of Defense Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee for analysis and the calculation of proposed new COLA

rates, Bendich said. Finally, the committee submitted proposed new COLA rates to the services (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines) for their concurrence. Only after all services had agreed to the new COLA rates could the rates become effective.

one hour's drive or 50 miles; Partial Support communities are located more than an hour and a half and less than three hours or 75-120 miles from facilities; and No Support communities are more than three hours or 150 miles from facilities. Data from communities grouped according to these parameters is averaged to produce an index for the category.

Soldiers can look up their COLA rate at <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/ocform.html>.

Decreases in COLA will be implemented in two-point-per-month increments. The impact of the COLA rate adjustments will vary depending on the service member's grade, years of service and family status. For example, a captain in Heidelberg with six years of service and three family members will experience a COLA decrease of \$122.33 when the survey results have been fully implemented, while a sergeant in Schweinfurt with six years of service and three family members will experience a COLA increase of \$52.83 effective Jan. 1.

While these adjustments are under way, the index may continue to shift in response to changes in the Euro exchange rate. COLA will adjust when the Euro exchange rate changes by more than a cumulative five percentage points.

The annual surveys, regulated by the Joint Federal Travel Regulation, ensure that the allowance is properly adjusted to pay service members what they need and deserve while assigned in Europe.

"Because of COLA, service members and their families are not detrimentally affected financially by an overseas assignment," Bendich

said.

For more information on COLA and other financial issues, click on the 266th Finance Command website at <http://266fincom1.hqusareur.army.mil>



Photo by Alice Adler

S'no foolin' around

While this holiday season isn't fooling around – bringing it's fair share of snow and cold weather our way – Jared Bluesteen wasn't fooling around either. Jared didn't waste any time rolling his snowman into shape following the initial November snowfall.

COLA rates are set by location and category. Communities in Germany are grouped into categories based on similarities of cost and availability of commissary and exchange facilities. Full Support communities have facilities within

IMA-E lauds summer camp program

IMA-E Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG – More than 60 workers from 15 organizations who arranged summer camps in Germany and Italy for children of deployed Soldiers were presented awards Nov. 22 from Installation Management Agency-Europe Region Director Russell B. Hall.

The week-long, all-expenses-paid summer camps were held at Camp Darby and Garmisch. The program was dubbed Operation Purple Camp, since children from all military service branches were eligible to attend.

More than 240 middle and high school age students participated in camp programs that combined recreational activities with peer group team building and coping skills to deal with the stresses created by deployment of their parents.

"One of the primary things that unites our Army family – Soldier and civilian, deployed or working at our garrisons – is the care and concern for our children. Operation Purple Camp brought together a diverse and dedicated team who provided a week of fun and training to children of our deployed Soldiers. I'm tremen-

dously proud of their accomplishment," said Russell Hall, IMA-E director.

The youth summer camps were begun in the states in 2004 by the National Military Family Association. With the high number of deployments from installations in Europe, IMA-

EURO's Morale Welfare and Recreation Division decided to expand the program to military youths living in Europe.

Two camps were conducted at Camp Bavaria in Garmisch and two at Camp Italia at Camp Darby, Italy.

Almost 30 Camp Counselors from U.S. Army garrisons in Europe received CG Scrolls and Letters of Appreciation. Counselor awardees included Sakeeta Lewis, Alex Martin and Gladys Cora-Cruz of Vilseck.

Youths were selected for participation at camps Italia and Bavaria by an impartial, outside committee, composed of both military and civilian representatives.

"With the deployment of their parents, these young people are taking on stresses and responsibilities far beyond their years. Operation Purple Camp did a number of terrific things. It recognized their sacrifices, taught useful leadership and coping skills, and provided these children an opportunity to see one of the two most beautiful areas in Europe. I'm extremely proud of the skill, vision, and dedication of everyone involved in this program," said Hall.



Photo by Michael Morris, TSC Heidelberg

Russell Hall presents a Scroll of Appreciation to Vilseck's Sakeeta Lewis.

Q&A

If you could change one thing, what would it be?

**Veronica Taylor**

"My tendency to over analyze everything."

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Martin

"That people would put themselves in the other person's shoes before they judge them."

**Adam Nelson**

"The way the media gives information out on how or what Soldiers really feel about situations around the World."

Aviles Jhanson

"To never see harm come to any child."

**Eva Goet-Debhard**

"That all the bad things in the world would go away."

Christian Cagua

"The way people treat one another."

**Debbie Rodgers**

"Poverty in the United States."

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Thomas

"Making the Master Sergeant list."



Interviews and photos by Kathy Jordan

Commentary

'Thoughts while moving around'

Billets Safety, ID and Post pass losses, and DUI/DWIs

by Col. Brian Boyle

USAG Grafenwoehr Commander

Snow has fallen, the lights have been off-and-on in Vilseck, and we are busily preparing for the return of some of 18th CSB and all of the 94th Engineers. Before they come back though, there are some important things that you all need to be aware of.

Billets Safety. Over a period of the past three months, the USAREUR IG, supported by military police and CID, has assessed living conditions in Soldier billets across Europe. Trends included multiple unlocked entry ways into the billets, little senior level interest or presence in the billets, and Soldiers either asleep with doors unlocked or unsecured rooms. Obviously, theft is a major concern in these unsecured rooms. Worse, we have had several personal crimes occur in these billets undoubtedly abetted by the conditions mentioned previously. My charter is to provide a safe and secure environment for our Soldiers – and I need some help to do this. I'd ask all Soldiers living in billets to rethink how they secure themselves and their building. I'd also highly recommend commanders look into the status of their billets and periodically provide senior level presence into the areas. Together we can help provide a safer and more secure area for our Soldiers living in our billets.

ID and Post

Passes Loss. Since January 2005, Personnel in Vilseck and Grafenwoehr have misplaced over 800 ID or post passes. I suspect that Hohenfels has similar numbers based on their population. This is just way too many, and should concern everyone in the community. From a security stand point, we potentially have personnel using ID/post passes to get onto the installation. While the IACS machine mitigates this security risk, in short, personnel are not providing the proper care and concern that they should be with these passes. Worse, commanders are not even aware that their personnel are losing them. We have reviewed the cases at-length, and most are either lost or left at clubs. Very few are ever actually stolen. I am in the process of reviewing the garrison policy letter on replacement of post passes and IDs. I expect it will be updated in the New Year. **Remember that sponsors are responsible for their family members' passes too.** It will provide a way for commanders to be in-

**Col. Boyle**

involved in both the notification of the loss and the application for a replacement ID and post pass. There will be more data to follow on this one.

DUIs/DWIs. Last count on DUI and DWIs is 66 for the year. In my view, one is too many. I am also particularly concerned that we are about to have large units returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have not had access to alcohol. The temptation for them will be to drink and drive. For all of the community, please take this as a friendly reminder that even drinking one drink is too many if you plan on getting behind the wheel. Figure out early on who the designated driver is – and use him or her. With the upcoming holiday season, people will tend to forget and you all are too important to lose on the highways. Please be safe.

As November ends, thanks to all who put on such magnificent Thanksgiving events in our dining facilities. In addition, we've had our first snowfall and the holiday season is fast upon us. I invite everyone out to the tree lighting ceremonies in all of the communities. As I understand it, a little man in red may attend. And there is a host of unit and garrison parties and formals all designed to celebrate the year among family and friends. Again please be safe. Plan for designated drivers so we can all gather together at the start of the New Year.

Town Hall captured community concerns

by Col. Brian Boyle

USAG Grafenwoehr Commander

USAG Grafenwoehr hosted the quarterly Town Hall meeting in the Grafenwoehr Elementary School on Oct. 19th. Based on the number of questions, we decided to provide responses back to the community in the Training Times. In the future we will get the responses back to the community much more quickly.

There was a strong turnout of Soldiers, civilians, and family members from both Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities in the town hall. The issues brought up by the community were far-ranging, but there definitely seemed to be some concern if the garrison could continue to support the current population and prepare and execute support to the incoming brigade-size units in both Vilseck and Grafenwoehr.

Several questions were addressed to the AAFES general manager, Matt Mennona, regarding AAFES store hours, the concessionaires, and the future of Vilseck's Post Exchange. Currently, the Vilseck Exchange is losing money during certain periods due to the reduced customers. AAFES conducted an analysis on the use of its facilities and determined that the facilities were under-utilized on Mondays. The consensus was this loss was due to the closure of the commissary on the same day as people combine their shopping in both places. By closing on Mondays, this provides some flexibility to the store, allowing them to increase hours in other areas.

AAFES is continuing to address the challenge of concessionaires pulling out of the food court. Concessionaires are privately-operated businesses that come onto the installation. Due to the reduced customer population, some of the concessionaires have experienced a loss of profits resulting in their not being able to maintain their establishments. The gyros stand at Vilseck closed for this reason. AAFES is actively working to find replacement concessionaires.

In an effort to help support Soldiers and family members desiring to repair their vehicles on the weekend when the Car Care Center is closed, AAFES is looking at adding some automotive care products back in the PXtra. AAFES also has oil, antifreeze, and various products used to clean cars at the Shopette.

The future status of Vilseck Commissary and Exchange were questioned due to the current construction of Grafenwoehr's facilities. Dana Nickless, Commissary manager, assured everyone that there are no future plans to close or reduce the Commissary hours on Vilseck. As for the Exchange, there are plans to turn it into a large furniture store since the Grafenwoehr Ex-

change will be the largest Army Exchange in Europe, but the plans are still being finalized.

Questions were raised regarding ethnic hair styling and the line of products available. AAFES has the ability to either hire somebody with these skills or train one of its employees to style ethnic hair. AAFES can stock specific items if requested and available. As a reminder, anyone interested in styling hair out of their home must follow the U'R procedures to request a home-based business. Personnel interested in a home-based business or who believe they already have one but who have not updated his/her paperwork over the last year, must contact Sieglinde Schedl, USAG Grafenwoehr Commercial Affairs Officer, who will provide guidance on how to apply for a home-based business to ensure compliance with established regulations.

Other questions were also brought up and answered by members of the garrison staff.

Grafenwoehr is expected to transition from a training command to a tenant organizational command with the arrival of the new battalions and brigade headquarters. A concern was the capacity for unit runs on Grafenwoehr. Anticipating this concern, the garrison ensured the new fitness center developed a 4.3 KM track which will allow four to six persons to run abreast. At end state, sometime after 2009, all units will be consolidated in the new construction near the fitness facility. In the interim it may be inconvenient to get to the track for some units, but the bottom line is: we are providing a place free from traffic for all units to run on.

An additional question was raised regarding child care services and the ability to provide hourly child care slots. In fact, this is an USAREUR concern and has the attention of the Deputy USAREUR commander. Hourly care is an enhancement to the normal child care services and integrated into the full care program. Hourly care is made available as resources allow, but full care has priority. Currently, there are four hourly-care slots available in all age groups in our facilities.

A question on performance art was also raised by the community. The Bavarian Arts Guild has been performing for almost 10 years. Everyone participating in the program is a volunteer, but they do not have dedicated facilities right now. Currently, the Bavarian Arts Guild uses facilities loaned by the high school. Although they are very appreciative for the support they've received over the last 10 years, they would like their own dedicated facility and an entertainment director. The Garrison supports them on both of their requests. MWR will be reestablishing the Entertainment Director position to coor-

dinate all Army entertainment. This position will also serve as a liaison to private organizations' community entertainment. Additionally, there are plans for a community theater in Grafenwoehr, but they cannot be realized until after Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr is complete and funding has been secured. We estimate the project will get programmed for 2009 or 2010.

Ballet for preschoolers and kindergarteners also was discussed. The ballet instructor for the preschoolers departed in August. The contract for a new instructor was announced and recently awarded. We expect classes to resume in mid-November.

Some final questions were raised and answered below:

Optometrist. The Vilseck optometrist is expected to arrive in the middle of November. To ensure service is still provided to military members, the Health Clinic has optometrists traveling here from other communities two to three days each week until the in-bound officer gets up and running. This will meet the need for our active duty Soldiers since our optometry tech(s) pull the lion's share of the Soldiers' readiness requirements and then refer those with issues to the optometrist.

Dogs. Dogs are required to be on a leash. Individual neighbors and building coordinators are responsible to police their own area to ensure this policy is complied with. If individuals refuse to adhere to the rules, then they should be reported. In addition, owners are responsible for policing up the feces of their dogs.

DSL in outlying communities. Two people expressed a desire to have DSL in their off-post quarters that are in some of our small towns. There is a rumor that if I, the USAG Grafenwoehr commander, sign a letter to TELEKOM requesting this service for the towns that it will happen. That isn't true. At the moment, according to TELEKOM it is not possible to provide DSL support to Edelsfeld or Hammerles; however, they say it might be possible at a later time. Telekom suggested that the customers in those communities who are interested in DSL, contact Telekom again in about two or three months as they are constantly updating their service.

We appreciate the chance to respond to community concerns and use the Town hall as a vehicle to express these concerns. Please join us at our next Town Hall scheduled in January – specific date to be announced – at the Vilseck Chapel. You'll be able to hear what is going on in the community around you. You'll also be able to ask the Garrison staff about any issues or concerns that you may have.

TRAINING TIMES

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In Briefs

Graf Community Jingle Bell Fun Run

Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 a.m. Open to everyone on Graf – Soldiers, family members, DA civilians. At the Graf Tower Theater parking lot. Formation run with unit Guidon, wear appropriate holiday-themed clothing or APFU. Refreshments provided after the run.

Hohenfels Kontakt Club at Velburg Christmas Market

The town of Velburg will be having its Christmas Market Dec. 9-11. Hohenfels Kontakt Club will have a booth selling American goodies there all three days. Market opens Friday 4:30 p.m. Various groups and choirs performing, including Gospel Choir from Hohenfels (7:15 p.m.) Saturday, market opens 3 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Kontakt Club will be performing a Line Dancing Show on Sunday at 2:30. Santa will be making an appearance Saturday at 5:15 and Sunday at 3:30. The Christkind (Christ child) will accompany Santa on Sunday as well.

VES Dec. 15 Holiday Concert

The VES Music Dept. will present its annual “Holiday Music Concert” on Thursday, Dec. 15. Performance starts 1 p.m. in the school’s MPR. Performers will include students from 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes. Also performing will be this year’s edition of the VES music club, presenting the musical play entitled “Candy Cane Lane.”

Graf Community Center hours

The main doors of bldg. 244, the Community Center, will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The following agencies are now in Bldg 244: CPAC/NAF, Driver’s Testing, SATO, Reenlistment, Housing, 38th PSB, ID Cards, IACS, ACS and CYS Registration (coming very soon), RCO, HRD, USAG S-1, 106th Finance, USAG Graf Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security / Personnel Security. For hours and phone numbers of the individual agencies, refer to the USAG Graf website phonebook (<http://www.100asg.army.mil/info/GrafQuickRef.pdf>).

Heart & Home holiday late night

Graf’s Heart & Home, bldg. 607 will be open Friday, Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to midnight, offering you a chance to combine a leisurely evening of scrapbooking, knitting, and quilting with the opportunity for late night shopping. Take this opportunity to do some last minute Holiday shopping and work on a favorite craft project. Lots of holiday items will also be on sale.

Women’s self-defense class in Vilseck

Class is every 2nd Saturday of the month, bldg. 221, 1-4 p.m. Costs: \$36. Adults only. For more Info call DSN 476-2214/2998 or CIV 09641-929769

Vilseck storytime

Come to the Vilseck library for Preschool storytime every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. Stories and crafts for preschoolers. POC is Karen Beck at DSN 476-1740.

AAFES Christmas week-end operating hours

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve	
Graf shoppette/PZ/BkMk	8 am-4 pm
Vilseck MS & Pxtra	8 am-4 pm
Vilseck Shoppette	8 am-4 pm
Hohenfels MS & Pxtra	8 am-4 pm
Warrior Hill Shoppette	8 am-4 pm
Movies	Closed
Concessions	10 am-2 pm
Food Facilities	Closes 4:30 pm
MCSS	Closes 2 pm
Dec. 25 – Christmas Day	
All Shoppettes	11 am-4 pm
All other facilities	Closed
Movies	Closed
Dec. 26	
Main Stores	11 am-5 pm
Food Operations	11 am-5 pm
Shoppette/Gas	Regular Hrs

by Robert McGaffin
USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office



There are changes afoot to the Highway Traffic Code in Germany. Effective sometime in 2006, Jan. 1 to possibly May 1, the code is being modified to identify suitable tires for winter use. Part of the debate centers around the term “all-season” and its ability to deliver adequate traction during snowy and icy conditions. The rating appears to be vol-

untary and is a tire manufacturer’s evaluation of a product as to the suitability for delivering adequate traction during inclement weather and is not a manufacturing standard. The German government is examining ways to ensure that vehicles being operated in limited traction conditions have easily identifiable and suitable tires. So what does that mean to the Americans stationed here? Our vehicles, and the tires that we use, must meet the same safety criteria as those imposed on the German public. It is possible that an “all-season” tire will not meet the new German standard, and there will be consequences ranging from fines to liability in the case of an accident. Until the standard and accompanying law is published, there are measures that motorists can take to protect themselves and other highway

users during adverse winter driving conditions. Examine the tires on your car and try to do a fair evaluation of their characteristics. Does the tread tend to pack up with snow? How aggressive is the tread design? Is the tire wear approaching the warning indicators? Does the tire sidewall clearly indicate a mud and snow rating (M&S) on the sidewall? Have you checked the tire pressures and re-inflated them to the car manufacturer’s standard since the weather has turned colder? All of these factors can be critical if the tires are called on to deliver maximum performance in poor road conditions. Your AAFES car care center or German Reifen dealer can help you determine if your tires really are suited for use in snow. Don’t let the German Polizei make that determination for you.

LQA revisions affect DoD civilians

USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

The Army in Europe Regulation 690-500.592, Civilian Personnel Living Quarters Allowance (LQA), dated June 20, was recently revised. The revisions include a new set of procedures for claiming and processing voluntary reconciliations of employees’ living quarters expenses. There are two different reconciliations described in the revised regulation, the mandatory reconciliation and the voluntary reconciliation. The mandatory reconciliation must be completed at the end of the first year’s rental period, but no later than 15 months after the LQA is initially granted to the employee. These are the same requirements that exist today. There is no requirement to complete an additional reconciliation of living quarters expenses

for the same quarters after the initial reconciliation, however an employee may request a voluntary reconciliation. The purpose of the voluntary reconciliation is to allow an employee, who is entitled to LQA, an opportunity to claim unusual gains or losses in their living quarters expenses when they believe there has been a significant change. For these claims, payments will generally be prospective. This means that the adjusted payments will begin with the pay period following the date the request is received at the servicing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. In rare cases, when circumstances are beyond the employee’s control to submit timely utility receipts, a retroactive reimbursement may be processed. These claims will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the specific requirements in the regulation.

In order to implement the new regulation changes for voluntary reconciliations, a one-time opportunity for processing the voluntary reconciliations retroactively will be granted until Jan. 31, 2006. This one-time event will allow employees who may be affected by this change in the revised regulation to submit receipts for a voluntary reconciliation. A completed “Foreign Allowances Application, Grant and Report” (SF-1190) and a copy of all end-of-year bills for heat, electricity, water, sewer, and trash for each year must be submitted to the servicing CPAC. Requests submitted for retroactive payment consideration after Jan. 31 will be returned without processing. Questions concerning the reconciliation process should be directed to your servicing CPAC representative.

New DoD personnel system delayed Pay-for-performance system to start Feb. 1

by Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – DoD will delay implementing the new National Security Personnel System until Feb. 1, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said. England, along with other Defense Department and Office of Personnel Management officials, provided an update on NSPS matters to members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee at a Capitol Hill hearing Nov. 17. England told senators that NSPS will benefit DoD employees. “This is a win for DoD, it’s a win for our employees, and it’s a win for our nation,” he said. Several unions recently filed a lawsuit challenging some aspects of NSPS regulations, England said. However, DoD, OPM, the Justice Department and the unions involved in the lawsuit

announced an agreement Nov. 16. “While the lawsuit is in process, we have all agreed that DoD will continue the training on NSPS and will continue collaboration with them on implementation details,” England said. He said the final NSPS regulations were published in the Federal Register on Nov. 1. That publication, he said, had triggered a 30-day period for congressional review of the regulations prior to their implementation. NSPS is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld’s program to transform the way DoD does business to better meet the challenges of the 21st century. The new program, in development since 2003, will replace the current general-schedule personnel ranking system with broad pay bands. Employees are evaluated for performance in duties directly tied to departmental missions. Under NSPS, that pay-for-performance system

replaces old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance. DoD and OPM are partnering to establish the NSPS, which eventually will affect 180,000 Department of Homeland Security employees as well as DoD’s more than 650,000-person civilian work force. NSPS guards against prohibited personnel practices, protects whistleblowers from recriminations, and maintains all safeguards against discrimination, said OPM Director Linda Springer. She said NSPS achieves the balance of employees’ rights to representation and collective bargaining with DoD’s mission requirements. “Finally, the NSPS honors and promotes veterans’ preference, a privilege that has been dearly earned through personal sacrifice by our men and women in uniform,” Springer said.

Passport requirements waived for deployed

by Arthur McQueen
USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The German government has agreed to waive tourist passport requirements for service members deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom who wish to travel to and from Germany on commercial flights while on rest and recuperation leave. The change is effective Dec. 1, according to Lt. Col. Keith E. Puls, chief of the U. S. Army, Europe, Judge Advocate Office’s International Law and Operations Division. “Certain restrictions remain attached to the tourist passport waivers. The conditions must be

followed to the maximum extent, so that R&R travelers are in Germany legally,” Puls said. Some waiver requirements are as follows: ● The service member must be assigned to OIF or OEF and be participating in an approved R&R program. ● While traveling, service members who are U.S. citizens must be in possession of U.S. military identification card and a leave form (DA Form 31). ● Leave form must have the statement that it is “valid for the purpose of travel to Germany” in block 17. ● R&R participants should ensure the DA Form 31 contains the following entries: first and

last name, date and place of birth (in block 17), SSN, indication of issuing authority, current citizenship, signature of approving authority, and indication of the validity period. ● If required, the German visa may be placed on DA Form 31 in lieu of a passport from the “visa-required” country. ● The German government has made it clear that its agreement applies only in Germany, and does not bind any other EU-member states. Anyone who intends to travel from Germany to another country while in a leave status must have a tourist passport or otherwise satisfy that country’s entry requirements.



Hurrah and congratulations to Clinton and Alicia Patterson for the birth of their first child. Damian Wade Patterson was born Nov. 26 at 8:40 a.m. The 1-214 Grafenwoehr Flight Detachment is proud to welcome a new member into our Flying Club. Good luck to Clinton and Alicia because they’re going to need it. Hurrah to the GCSC for their ongoing support: THE GCSC’s monetary donation allowed the Graf clinic to purchase play furniture and waiting room entertainment for our young patients. The clinic truly appreciates the support of the GCSC. – The Grafenwoehr Health Clinic

Dean delivers command channel

USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

Reggie Dean joined the USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs staff as a contractor in October, and manages the Command Information Channel available in most government and government-leased housing areas in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels. Dean is the proud father of four children: Jasmine, Bria, J.R. and James. In May 2002, he accompanied his wife, Kim, to Vilseck. Originally from Chicago, he attended Hales Franciscan High School and graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Telecommunication, with a minor in Sociology. Since living in Germany, he has worked

for the U.S. Army postal service in Hahnau, as a substitute teacher at Vilseck Middle/High School, and produced radio and television advertisements for AFN radio and television. His favorite activities include video production, coaching youth sports, camping, racquetball, and fishing. To publicize on the command channel, send info to usaggnws@graf.eur.army.mil



Reggie Dean

AWAG conference meets community needs

by Alice Adler
Training Times

Volunteers from the Grafenwoehr, Vils-
eck and Hohenfels communities gathered at
the Tower View Restaurant in Grafenwoehr
for the Nov. 19 annual American Women's
Activities, Germany (AWAG) Oberpfalz
Area Conference.

The day started with remarks from
Michelle McLaughlin, Oberpfalz Area Rep-
resentative, and Laurie Menzel, AWAG
Chairperson. After the brief opening, atten-
dees were free to attend any one of a variety
of professional and personal development
classes.

Four class times were scheduled, with
three classes offered in each time block.
Classes ranged from professional develop-
ment courses such as "Meeting Manage-
ment" and "Preventing Death by Lecture" to

fun selections such as the popular "Line
Dancing" class. Subjects such as military
protocol, parenting, volunteer management,
German cooking, photography and mutual
funds were also covered in the classes.

Midway through the day, the AWAG del-
egates were treated to a lunch that was ac-
companied by a playful performance of the
skit "Little Black Dress," which lampoons
the role of military wives throughout the
years. Delegates also enjoyed an interesting
talk by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Brown.

At the conclusion of classes, delegates
gathered for closing ceremonies which in-
cluded giving away raffle and door prizes to
many lucky participants.

McLaughlin, the organizer of the AWAG
conference, was very pleased with the day's
events. "I've had nothing but positive com-
ments," she said. "Everyone really seemed

to enjoy the variety of classes."

Juliet Davidson, AWAG Vice Chairper-
son, agreed: "The whole conference was
very professionally done. Michelle did a
great job of meeting the needs of the com-
munity." Davidson praised the class variety
and the quality of the speakers. "They
reached every person at every level," she
said.

AWAG, a 50-year-old military organiza-
tion, holds one-day long conferences in
each of seven different regions of Germany.
The goal of AWAG is to train, strengthen
and connect volunteers throughout the mil-
itary community in Europe. Every year a
four-day long conference brings together
representatives from all over Europe to
offer professional development for some of
the military's most important and active
volunteers.



Photo by Alice Adler

AWAG Oberpfalz Area Representative Michelle McLaughlin pulls a winning raffle ticket from a basket held by Conference Assistant Andrea Kaltenbach.

What Is It All About? Contemplating the deeper questions of life

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William T. Barbee

The days are getting shorter, and darkness
seems to be an old friend again. Advertisements
are ubiquitous on the internet. Sales are in plenty
at the PX. Christmas must be coming.

This is also a time many people come to the
point, either thru exhaustion or thru design, of
taking time to contemplate the deeper questions
of life. Maybe it is the shorter days and longer
nights that remind us that time is running out for
all of us. The question implied: "What is it all
about?"

While we are reminded almost daily at this
time of year that Christmas is coming, there is a
tradition that many follow called Advent. Ad-
vent is a time to think on deeper things of life and
to prepare for them. It is a time to reconnect with
the things that really matter.

This all sounds a little on the gloomy side and
not at all in the spirit associated with Christmas.

However, if we travel the road of the mysteries
of Advent, it will lead to a much more meaning-
ful Christmas. Ultimately, Advent Season is
about hope.

As we connect with this quiet season, we are
assured that we are not alone, that our choices in
life really do matter, that love is better than hate,
and that working toward peace with good will is
worthy of our best self. As we connect with this
quiet season we also are drawn closer to each
other, especially those who are different from
ourselves. Our focus is changed and we find our-
selves more compassionate.

You may remember the old movie, *It's A Won-
derful Life*. In the movie a very dark moment led
to serious questions, and ultimately to a great
discovery. We really do matter and we really do
need each other.

What is it all about? This is a good time to ask
the question and wait with hope for its promise
and blessing. I wish you all the best.

Graf & Vilseck Holiday Religious Services

Dec. 24

VILSECK

Catholic Christmas Eve Mass 5 p.m.

Episcopal Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7
p.m.

GRAFENWOEHR

Protestant Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.

Catholic Christmas Eve Mass 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 25

VILSECK

General Protestant Service 10 a.m.

GRAFENWOEHR

Protestant Christmas Day Service 10:30 a.m.



For a complete
listing of worship
services and reli-
gious education pro-
grams available in
Graf, Vilseck, and
Hohenfels commu-
nities, visit the USAG
Grafenwoehr web-
site at www.100asg.army.mil/sites/installation/religious.asp

All communities
offer a variety of spe-
cial programs which you are always welcome to
participate in. Watch for community announce-
ments and come join them.



Photo by Alice Adler

**Children from the Hohenfels Catholic Chapel made ornaments Nov. 19 symbol-
izing the lineage of Jesus. Ornaments were then placed on the chapel's Advent
Jesse Tree.**



Photo by Alice Adler

Hohenfels Bazaar proves best-ever

**Cheryl and Horace Carter shop at Hohenfels' winter Bazaar. The Bazaar, held
Nov. 18 to 20, was the most successful one Hohenfels has had.**



Photo by Nick D'Amario

**2nd Lt. Bolivia Villanova knows a good thing when he sees it. Training Times is
distributed to Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels every other Wednesday; your
next issue will be Dec. 21. Oh, and don't forget - there's free classifieds available
for you in each issue, whether you're selling or buying.**

Kids! Hurry and e-mail your holiday wish list to Santa - Dec. 10 deadline

Children whose e-mail wish lists are received
before Dec. 10 will have their names published
on a special page in European Stars and Stripes
called "News from the North Pole" - and they
might even receive a postcard or letter from St.
Nick himself.

A different list of names will be printed in the
"News from the North Pole" each day, Decem-

ber 19, 20 and 21.

We all know that Santa is very, very busy this
time of year, so families should make sure the
kids get that wish list off to Santa right away. Of
course, Santa encourages teachers and students
to send their class lists, as well!

All e-mail wish lists should be addressed to:
santac@mail.estripes.osd.mil

New Feature:

A day in the life of ASACS

Counselors make a difference for adults, children

Photos and article by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

When most people hear the words 'alcohol and substance abuse' in the same sentence, they often tend to think of quiet little secrets shared by families, or they try not to think about it at all.

And there are others that do not seek out the help or guidance needed to improve their situation. Many times these unresolved issues make people lash out at others in public or in schools.

For the past 18 years, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling Services has been a large resource for schools. This long-running contract between the military and Science Applications International Corporation has proven to be beneficial to program participants. The counseling service provides preventive methods to clients that need assistance coping with a range of different issues.

Elizabeth Hill and Connie Wilkes, Vilseck middle and high school ASACS counselors, have been promoting these services and working with other agencies in the community to provide clients with assistance and information.

"About 40 to 50 percent of our time is dedicated to prevention work," said Hill.

There is not a particular 'type' of client that comes to see the counselors on a daily basis. And because of the emphasis on prevention, there is a wider spectrum of clients that use the service than one might think.

"Kids do not have to be using or abusing drugs in order to see us. We work with kids that might have transition problems going from elementary to middle school, or middle school to high school. We work with deployment or family issues also. There are many times kids are not connecting with school or not doing well in school. Other times they are having peer problems or discipline problems. There are lots of reasons why kids might want to see us," said Wilkes.

The counselors typically begin their day looking at schedules, checking e-mails from the home office for current information, and talking with teachers and school administrators about school activities.

There are many different ways in which the counselors help clients. They can work with clients in groups, as a family unit, or on an individual basis depending on the need.

The counseling service also has a 'partner' of the canine variety that works with them, and is very effective with the students and the staff. Using animals for therapy is not a new concept, but a tried-and-true method of helping soothe and comfort others through the power of touch.

"Ender is a certified therapy dog. He models great friendship-making abilities. He doesn't care what the kids look like or what they are wearing...if you are nice to him he will be nice to you," said Hill.

There are certain qualifications an animal has to have before becoming certified.

"They have to have certain qualities in terms of their temperament. They cannot startle easily. They have to be calm animals," said Hill.

Ender, a 105-pound Labrador, works with Hill in the school and often helps students with problem-solving skills.

Ender's non-verbal approach was recently used at the school when he intervened between students in a school hallway.

"We had an incident where two kids were in the hallway and they were having a pretty heated conversation. Ender just walked out my door and got in between them, and calmly just looked up at each kid. I walked out and asked them what they thought Ender was saying to them. They asked was he going to bite and I said no, he is telling you to grow up," Hill said.

Ender also adds a sense of calm to the clients that come into Hills office. "I had a kid in my office recently who was pretty distressed about life. Ender was lying on the floor and the kid just

lay on Ender and used him like a pillow and just started petting him. Ender is very soothing," said Hill.

Sometimes animals can be used as a tool to help clients communicate with counselors. "I also had a therapy dog," said Wilkes. "I remember in particular a family that was going through divorce and one of the little girls found it difficult to talk to others, but she told her secrets to the dog before she left. I don't know what she said to him but it helped her."

Although it is often hard to know if the work they do has been effective, every now and again a glimmer of light shines through and they know some of their work has made a difference.

"When someone reports that they feel better or they have achieved a goal, it's great. It could be as small as being able to get up in the morning and say good morning to their mom and dad without being grouchy," said Hill.

"Someone asked one of our clients why they liked coming to see us, and she said because it was safe, and she knew we would not judge her, and she felt she could tell us anything," said Wilkes.

Because the counseling service works in conjunction with the military and does not work for the school or any other agencies, much of the consultation they provide remains confidential. For those issues that require more care and attention, the counselors are prepared and ready to lend a helping hand.

"If we have someone who needs more intense service we would refer them to residential treatment," said Hill.

"Our job is to facilitate relationships within the family. We try to help people communicate better and achieve the things they want to achieve. We do not take sides," said Wilkes.

"I think kids today have a lot more to deal with. You have the internet, you have the media, television and movies. You also have cultures

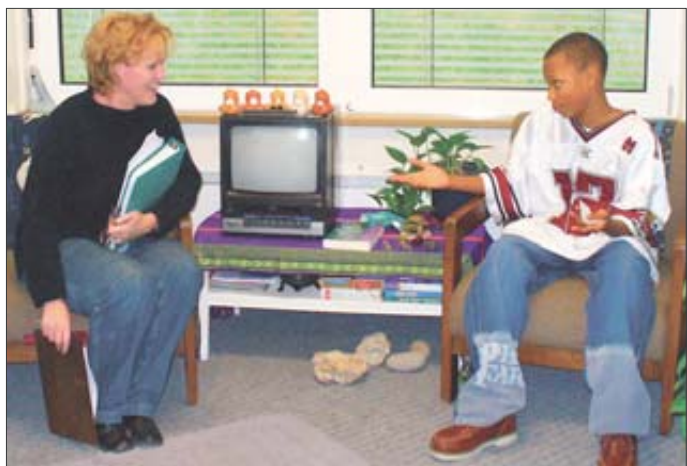


ASACS counselor Connie Wilkes is in the front office touching base with school administrators about school events.

where drugs and alcohol are readily available and can be cooked up at home or in the basement.

I think those are pressures...that kids are experiencing at younger ages. Kids aren't that much different today, but I think the circumstances are," Wilkes said.

Editor's note: 'A Day In The Life' was the brainchild of Kathy Jordan, Training Times. These articles will become a new addition to the paper. Readers can get the 'inside scoop' and information on what some people are doing in their chosen profession within the community.



ASACS counselor Elizabeth Hill spends time with client Khiry Taylor.



ASACS counselor Elizabeth Hill and Ender walk down the Vilseck Middle School hallway, greeting students.



ASACS counselor Elizabeth Hill conducts a life skills class in Ms. Yolanda Willhoite's seventh grade class. The class teaches children problem-solving skills such as anger and stress management.

Graf Elementary celebrates star students

Grafenwoehr Elementary School celebrated the end of the first quarter with an Awards Assembly Nov. 16 for students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

Students were recognized for both Honor Roll (3.0-3.49 GPA) and Distinguished Honor Roll (3.5-4.0 GPA).

Distinguished Honor Roll students included Alex Bias, Megan Braga, Anna Clark, Chanelle Cohen, Mariel Colon-Leyva, Katie Cooper, Derric Daniels, Luke Dinges, Alexei Gallo, Karen Grier, Kaley Harless, Eric Haynes, Danielle Holland, Max Hoover, Wes Kennedy, Kyle Lewis, Emily Manzo, Jazzmin Martin, Gabriella Meyering, Mikaela Meyering, Michelle Ragay, Austen Serrano, Nancy Smith, Duncan Stoner, Michael Stratton, Krystle Suetopka, Scott Tilton, Kiana Vertz, Brandi Watts, Kevin, Wehrer, Courtney Wills and Maleyna Young.

Honor Roll students included Joe Blaylock, Nian Castro-O'Connor, Monique Chavez-Wertz, Marquis Cheeseboro, Hannah Collins, Alisha DeBruzzi, Patrick DePuy, Joey Dominguez, Nolan Eastman, Felix Garcia, Astrid Gonzalez, Tyler Hockensmith, Troy Kander, Katherine Mason, Megan Moore, Olivia Owens, Andre Rhodes, Emerlyn Rivera, Lisa-

Marie Roberts, Darian Trimble, Kevin Vacanti, Barrett Whealton, Patrick Whitney and Taylor Witherpoon.

We congratulate those students who were also recognized for Citizenship and Improved Reading Lexile Growth. We would also like to thank Maj. Mary Cooper for volunteering her time as our special guest speaker, and the many parents who were able to attend this special ceremony and support their child's academic achievement.



Five Grafenwoehr students bask in the academic glow of Honor Roll recognition.

Vilseck students 'Dine at the Ritz'

Luncheon celebrates academic success

During the 2001-2002 school year, the Vilseck Elementary Talented and Gifted teacher suggested to the awards committee that a luncheon be held to celebrate the academic success of students. The committee agreed and the teacher accepted the responsibility of organizing the project. Today this unique tradition continues.

The criterion established for the selection of the students is set at two children per class from grades four, five, and six. One of those students must have a 4.0 GPA or be at the top of the class. The second student is to be one that has shown/demonstrated the most improvement in the quarter.

The luncheon is somewhat formal. The students are asked to dress nicely for the occasion. Col. Boyle was in-

vited to sit at the table, along with the principal, Dr. Allen. The table is set with china, silverware, crystal, flower arrangements, a candelabra, and tablecloths.

Dining at the Ritz is held each quarter on the same day as the awards assembly during the last lunch period.



Students enjoy dining in style at VES Nov. 22.

AAFES future has much in-store for shoppers

Relocations, renovations, and construction target new end-state

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

If you’ve been stationed in USAG Grafenwoehr for any period of time, then you’ve seen your share of AAFES store relocations, renovations, groundbreakings and changes in operating schedules.

All of this has been with good reason.

Due to Efficiency Basing-Grafenwoehr and re-stationing initiatives, AAFES has had to move or close several facilities in order to adequately prepare for its future end-state.

One particular end-state project is the new Graf shopping center complex opening in 2007.

One facility already impacted was the Main Store in Graf, which was closed to make way for the new post office. Another example is the closure of the AAFES furniture stores in Graf and Hohenfels, resulting in the Exchange Furniture Store in Vilseck; by locating everything in one store, AAFES is now able to show all brands, low to high-end, at one time, thus giving customers a better buying decision point-of-reference.

Some of these moves and closures have provided immediate results, such as the new Furniture Store; others, like the Graf main store closure, will not show its stripes until the new shopping center complex, billed as the largest in U.S. Army Europe at 140,907 sq. ft., opens in 2007. As a comparison, Vilseck is 65,000 square feet.



An inside glimpse of the Vilseck Exchange Furniture Store.

While the hustle-and-bustle of repositioning AAFES for its end-state goes on, some pitfalls in operability and/or profitability have surfaced.

For example, AAFES documented a severe sales shortfall in the former Graf Shoppette location and moved them to the former PXtra location across from Burger King.

This move kindled a shopping synergy at the Southside of the post. Subsequently, AAFES decided to consolidate the PowerZone and Bookmark / Hallmark store into the newly renovated Shoppette to give patrons 7-day a week shopping and more hours in which to do so.

Matt Mennona, the AAFES General Manager, works closely with the USAG Grafenwoehr command group to ensure that operational needs to change or impact existing services are coordinated and efforts made to inform and educate community members.

An underlying consideration for AAFES in all its activities is that in being a major contributor to MWR, that a sufficient level of profitability is maintained while juggling the maximizing of customer service.

Roughly 67 percent of AAFES earnings are paid to MWR programs. Since Mennona took the AAFES helm as general manager in late 2002, contributions to-date for MWR total more than \$2.4 million.

In the past 10 years, \$2.24 billion has been contributed by AAFES to the Army and Air Force to spend on quality of life improvements for Soldiers, Airmen and their families-libraries, sports programs, swimming pools, youth activities, tickets and tour services, bowling centers, hobby shops, music programs, local magazines, outdoor facilities and unit functions.

AAFES is a non-appropriated fund activity of the Department of Defense, and funds 98 percent of its own operating budget. The only congressionally appropriated money spent by AAFES comes in the form of utilities and transportation of merchandise to overseas exchanges and for military salaries.

In addition to MWR contributions and construction expenses, a large portion of the AAFES budget is devoted to its work force. AAFES is a major source of employment for members of the Army and Air Force family. Approximately 31 percent of the 47,323 AAFES associates are military family members. In the USAG Grafenwoehr communities, AAFES employs over 500 people, with 25 percent of their U.S. employees being family members.

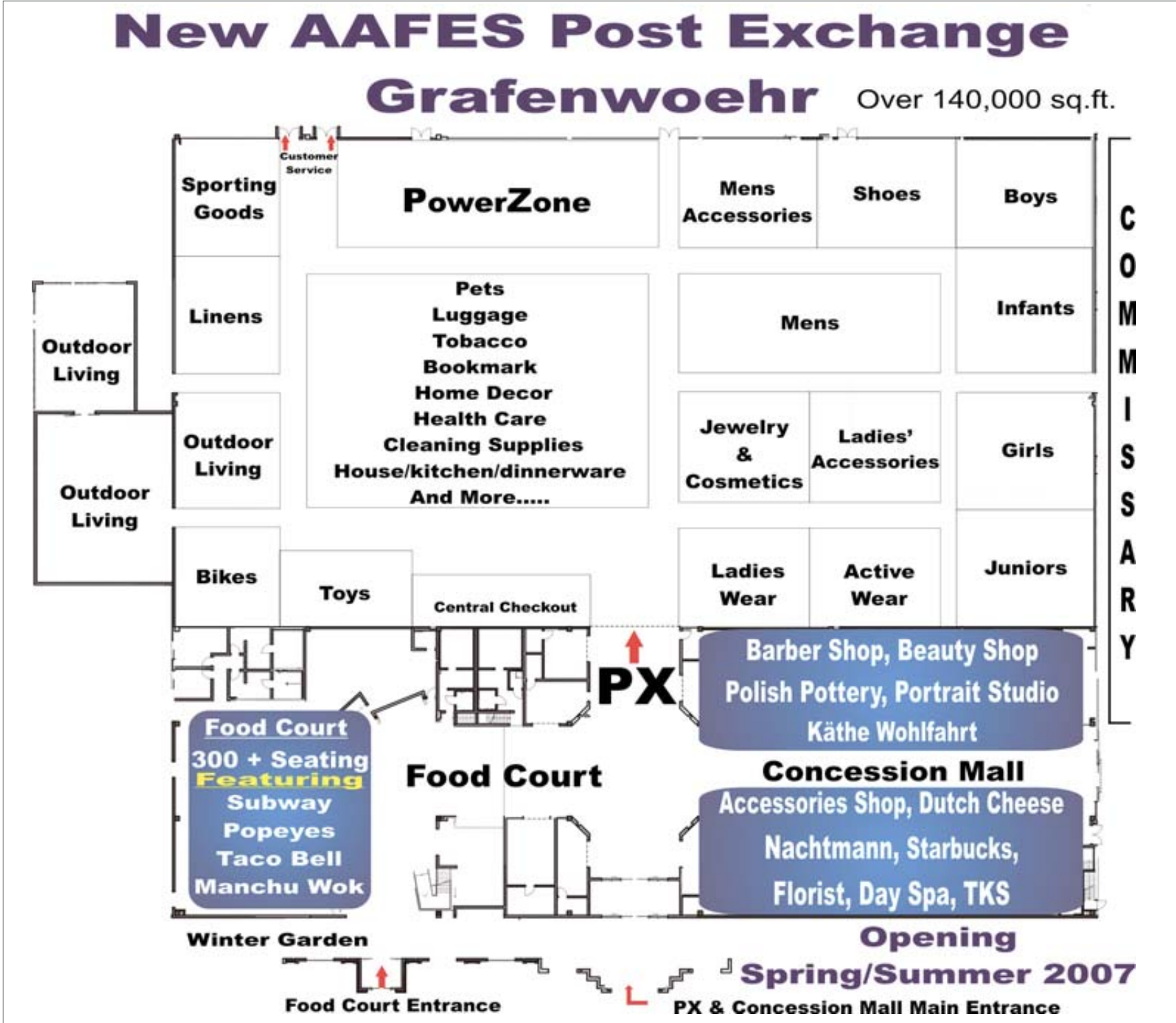
According to Mennona, “the AAFES worker is our most prized asset,” and one of the reasons AAFES stayed open when the 3rd BDE was deployed to Kosovo and then to OIF. “Families were here and we tried to save jobs. We also did this because...we were trying to take care of people,” said Mennona.



The AAFES Star Card program offers new card-carrying customers 10 percent off all first-day purchases.



The AAFES’ new Patriot Family Holiday Tree program lets customers post free messages at the AAFES Main Exchange.



AAFES Holiday Events

- Vilseck Exchange:**
- Every Wednesday through Dec. 21
 - Rudolph One-Day Sale, PX/PXtra manager will have special sales on selected in-stock only items in the stores.
 - Daily 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
 - Discount Elf, special announcement will be made in the PX where the Elf is, he/she will hand out instant discount on a selected item where you find him. He/she will be moving around the store.
 - Dec. 10
 - Santa at the Vilseck Concession Mall from 9 a.m. – noon, free pictures for the kids and a special gift.
 - Dec. 17
 - Santa at Vilseck Concession Mall 11 a.m.–5 p.m., free pictures for the kids and a special gift.
- Hohenfels Exchange:**
- Dec. 10
 - Find the Secret Santa coupons and save big on selected items.
 - Dec. 17
 - Santa at the PX 9-11 a.m. and at the PXtra 1-2 pm, free pictures.

An exclusive first-hand view of what the current plans are for concessions, retail departments and the food mall in the new 140,000 sq. ft. Graf AAFES Exchange.

Berlin brings history to life for visitors

Photos and article by Alice Adler
Training Times

No city in the world has been more important to the last 70 years of history than the city of Berlin.

As the sight of the final cataclysmic battle of World War II, the city was almost totally destroyed in the final days of the war. In the following years, the once-Allied powers split the city down the middle, creating what became the front line in the decades-long Cold War. For many years, photos of Soldiers facing off at the massive concrete ‘Wall,’ and stories of East German citizens risking everything just to get to the other side, defined the adversarial relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. All of this history and much more is available to you just a few short hours north.

Berlin is a huge city. The largest city in Germany got this way partially because with the reunification of Germany, two whole separate cities, East Berlin and West Berlin, were joined together into one huge metropolis. And, in the years since reunification, Berlin was subjected to a flurry of building activity as the country prepared to move its capitol from Bonn back to its traditional place in Berlin. Sixteen years after the fall of the Wall, Berlin is now a beehive of activity, full to the brim with historic buildings as well as modern architecture. It is truly a city that offers something for everyone.

The famous Wall no longer bisects the city, but evidence of its existence is everywhere. Running through the entire length of the city, a brass and brick line in the pavement shows visitors where the Wall once stood. Pieces of the Wall, decorated with well-known graffiti, stand in various places around the city for visitors to photograph.



The guard house at Checkpoint Charlie still stands where would-be visitors to the other side were forced to pass.

Brandenburg Gate, where U.S. President Ronald Regan stood and famously implored the Soviet Union to “tear down this Wall,” is now a favorite place for tourists to pose for photos. Visiting the Brandenburg Gate not only allows you too to pose for a photo, but it puts you within easy walking distance of several other sights.

Only about a block from the Gate lies the newly completed Holocaust Memorial comprised of 2,711 gray blocks sitting in an area the size of a city block. Walking amidst the Memorial, visitors easily become lost as the undulating ground swallows them up, leaving the blocks towering high above their heads.

A short walk up the road brings you to the Reichstag, the seat of the German Parliament. Events at this impressive building mark both the beginning and end of World War II. At the end of the war, as Berlin fell, the image of a Red Army Soldier raising the Soviet flag atop the ruins of the Reichstag signaled to the world that Germany had been defeated.

Near the Reichstag, a memorial to Soviet Soldiers killed in World War II seems strangely placed on what was the Western side of the Wall. Built in haste after the war but before the division of the city, the Memorial is flanked by tanks that are said to have been the first to enter Berlin during the final battle for the city.

Farther up Strasse des 17 Juni is the Victory Column, an ornate tower topped by a gold angel. This memorial to Prussian victories was moved to its present location by Hitler in 1938. Climbing its 285 steps rewards you with a commanding view of Berlin.

If it is museums you crave, Berlin delivers. The list of museums available to visit could keep a visitor busy for weeks. One popular museum to visit is the massive Pergamon Museum. This museum of antiquities is so huge that within its walls are housed the Greek Pergamon Altar, an entire building complete with 27 steps up to the impressive colonnade. It is also the place to see the Babylonian Ishtar Gate, a huge, ornately decorated city gate that dates from 580 BC.

Naturally, history museums dot the city as well. One well-placed museum is the Checkpoint Charlie House. This small museum is positioned at the spot which was the only gateway for foreigners between the two Berlins during the war. The guard cabin still stands, along with giant photos of American and Soviet Soldiers who once guarded the checkpoint. Inside the museum, visitors can find the history of the Wall and the division of the city, as well as stunning accounts of



The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church was ruined in a 1943 Allied bombing and stands today as a reminder of the war.

daring attempts, and accomplishments, by those desperate to flee to West Berlin.

We have only begun the scratch the surface of all that Berlin has to offer. Get a good guidebook and see what is there for you. This lively and cosmopolitan place is guaranteed to have something that will capture the attention of every member of the family.

Nuernberg’s world-famous, must-see Christkindlmarkt

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

Jingle bells, Christmas smells, good cheer and ‘gluhwein,’ a heated red wine to warm those cold fingers and bellies, are what awaits those who visit the world-renowned Christkindlmarkt in Nuernberg, Germany.

In the interests of Christmas shopping for the folks back home, I went to what’s reputed to be the biggest-and-best of the German Christmas markets. After arriving at the train station, lights strewn along the city streets helped guide my friend and I to a vast array of tents in the center.

For a first-timer like me, the crowded walkways between the stalls can be a bit overwhelming. The Germans tend to have a much smaller personal space than Americans, so be prepared to get gently pushed about by the massive throngs of people trying to take in all that the market offers. However, it’s entirely worth the extra effort and jostling due to the variety of goods and foods that await.

The individual stalls sport a variety of items: fabrics, Christmas decorations, jewelry, candles, winter clothing (of which I’m now sporting a lovely new woolen hat), and other amenities. Additionally, woe to the diet and carbohydrate-challenged, almost every other vendor sells scrumptious goodies, most notably the famous Neubkirchen gingerbread cookies. Despite the scrumptious scents, this reporter withstood the temptation.

A little while later, while munching on some chocolate-covered strawberries (I couldn’t hold out!), we

reached the end of a walkway and were enchanted to discover that a horse-drawn carriage ride around the city center was only three Euros away. So we hopped on, and waved to folks who paused to watch us trot and jingle by. After disembarking from the carriage, we were ready to catch our train back to Vilseck. As we left, we paused to enjoy the musical styling of one of the choruses that regularly sing at the market.

However, there was one more stop to make: the mistletoe man. We bought our branches-of-love and hustled back to the train station, just in time.

The market was a wonderful experience. Even for those who aren’t that interested in shopping, the Christkindlmarkt really brings out the true spirit of the holidays, and is a must-see for the whole family. The market is open daily through Christmas Eve, so be it by bus, train or automobile, make sure you head on over. I know I’m glad I did.



Andrea Enriquez examines holiday decorations at Nuernberg's Christkindlmarkt.

Photo by Shannon Hill

Local Christmas Markets

Compiled by Karin Betzl-Blendinger
USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

Amberg: Through Dec. 23, Market Place
Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun: 1–8 p.m.

Bayreuth: Through Dec. 23, Market Place (Pedestrian Zone), Mon–Sat: 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Schloß Guteneck bei Nabburg: Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18 Historical Christmas Market, Entrance Fee: 3 Euro Sat: 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Neumarkt: Through 21 Dec. Rathausplatz, 2–7 p.m.

Weiden: Through Dec. 23, Oberer Markt (Pedestrian Zone) Mon–Fri: 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m.– 8 p.m.

Nuernberg: Through Dec. 24
<http://www.christkindlesmarkt.de/>
Mon, Tue & Wed 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m.; Thu, Fri, Sat & Sun 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Dec. 24 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m. 1400 hrs

Regensburg: Through 23 Dec, Neupfarrplatz, daily 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
www.christkindlmarkt-regensburg.de

Sulzbach-Rosenberg: Through Dec. 18, Luitpoldplatz, Thur–Sun 4 p.m.– 8 p.m.

Vilseck: Dec. 10&11, Burg Dagestein, Dec. 10: 4–9 p.m. Dec. 11: 1–6 p.m.

USAG Grafenwoehr Holiday Ball Shuttle Bus Schedule for Dec. 9

Depart Graf Theater	Depart TVR	Arrive Ball	Depart Ball	Arrive TVR	Arrive Graf Theater
17:40	17:43	17:55	18:00	18:12	18:15
18:20	18:23	18:45	18:50	19:02	19:05
			22:30	22:42	22:45
22:50	22:53	23:05	23:10	23:22	23:25
23:30	23:42	23:45	23:50	23:53	00:05
00:10	00:13	00:25	00:30	00:42	00:45
00:50	00:53	01:05	01:10	01:22	01:25

German Baking 101: Lebkuchen – the German ‘life cake’

by Martina Bias
Special to Training Times

Lebkuchen (literally: life cake) is probably the most famous holiday treat from Germany. Sometimes locally referred to as Pfefferkuchen (literally: pepper-cake), it is like a large cookie, often honey-sweetened, full of spices, with candied fruits and nuts. It is then topped with a hard confectioners’ sugar or chocolate glaze.

Lebkuchen can be traced back to the early days of European spice trade. Spices were an expensive luxury and usually saved for a special time of celebration, like Christmas. Since sugar was pricey as well, honey was the common sweetener. The German history of this big spice cookie begins in Nuernberg in 1395, where the first Lebkuchen bakery was documented. During the Middle Ages, the spices used for baking the gingerbread reached Nuernberg via the famous spice routes and were inspected by city-employed spice inspectors at the gates to the city.

Up until 1867, Lebkuchen were made only by hand. Since the beginning of free commercial trade in Bavaria after this date, the production became more automated. However, many of Nuernberg’s bakeries still produce a variety of their Lebkuchen specialties the old-fashioned way. Some are made by major companies and some by family-run bakeries, but all use traditional recipes passed down from generation to generation. The oldest gingerbread recipe from the 16th century is housed in the Germanic National Museum.

It is noteworthy that only Lebkuchen produced within the city limits of Nuernberg may be called “Nuernberg Lebkuchen” as laid down by the Berlin District court in 1927. The term “Elisen Lebkuchen” originated when a member of the Nuernberg baker’s guild named his special creation after his daughter. Nowadays, Lebkuchen come in many different forms and shapes. There are Pfeffernüsse (sugar-glazed gingerbread cookies with a dark chocolate coated base and dark chocolate drizzled over the top), Dominosteine (chocolate-coated spiced Lebkuchen cakes with a jelly and marzipan filling), Hearts or Stars or Pretzels (shaped Lebkuchen cookies covered in chocolate), and of course Lebkuchenherzen (big heart-shaped cookies that have messages written in white icing on them) that you can purchase at many local celebrations throughout the year and at the Christmas markets.

Baking traditional Lebkuchen at home can prove to be a little challenging. Many old-fashioned recipes use ingredients like lard and artificial honey. Oblaten (the baking wafers) are not readily available in an American grocery store, but can be purchased in any German grocery store as well as online. Finally, many recipes call for a German spice mix called “Lebkuchengewuerz” or “Pfefferkuchengewuerz” (gingerbread spice). The ingredients vary by manufacturer, but this is a list that makes it possible for you to mix your own version:

Lebkuchengewuerz:

- 1 lemon, untreated, grated peel only
- 1 orange, untreated, grated peel only
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped ginger
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp ground pimento
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground cardamom
- ½ tsp ground anise

Mix all ingredients well before adding to the recipe.

I have compiled several different modern recipes that make it easy and fun to bake Lebkuchen at home. This variety should enable

everyone to find his or her favorite version. You can bake these Lebkuchen several weeks before Christmas and store them in a metal cookie tin, along with a quartered apple to keep them moist.

Let the smell of this favorite German holiday treat baking in your oven create many wonderful memories for your family and put you in the spirit of a traditional Bavarian Christmas. Besinnliche Weihnachten!

Pumpernickel

This is a chunky Lebkuchen variety. Filled with lots of nuts, fruits and spices, it is baked in a deep baking pan and then cut into the desired shapes and sizes.

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 ½ cups ground hazelnuts
- 2 cups sliced almonds
- ⅔ cup candied lemon peel (or 1 Pckg. German Citronat)
- ⅓ cup candied orange peel (or 1 Pckg. German Orangeat)
- 3 Tbs. baking cocoa
- 1 Packg. Lebkuchengewuerz (or one recipe, see above)
- 2 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ⅛ tsp. ground cloves
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¼ stick (10 Tbs.) butter or margarine, melted
- ¼ cup water

Glaze:

- 2 cups confectionary sugar
- 2 Tbs. water
- 2 tsp. rum

Combine all dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix well by hand. In a smaller bowl, beat eggs slightly and mix with melted (not boiling

hot) butter and water. Pour over dry ingredients and combine by hand until thoroughly mixed.

Pat into a greased 13-inch by 9-inch baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour.

Mix glaze ingredients and spread over Pumpernickel while still warm.

Cool and cut into desired squares or shapes.

Yield: about 16 – 20 servings

Almost Nuernberger Lebkuchen

Here is a recipe that comes close to the original, using common ingredients found in almost every grocery store.

- 4 eggs plus 1 egg yolk
- 1 ¾ cups sugar
- 2 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. grated lemon or orange peel
- ⅛ tsp. ground cloves
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups finely ground almonds
- ⅓ cup candied lemon peel (or ½ packg. German Citronat)
- ⅓ cup candied orange peel (or ½ packg. German Orangeat)
- Oblaten (baking wafers) 3-inch diameter
- Glaze(optional): 1 cup confectionary sugar; enough milk to make a thin glaze.

Mix sugar and eggs until fluffy. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Spread on baking wafers (Oblaten) about ½-inch thick (if dough is too runny and spreads too quickly, add more ground nuts (almonds or hazelnuts) to thicken). Bake at 325 degrees for about 25 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Glaze, if desired. Yield about 35-40 small Lebkuchen

Erdaepfellebkuchen

Erdaepfel is another word Germans might use for potatoes. It literally translates to “earth-apples.” This is a recipe for the more health-con-

science sweet-tooth, as it features whole wheat flour and uses cooked potatoes to replace the fat.

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 ½ cups ground nuts (preferably almonds or hazelnuts)
- 1 ⅓ cups whole wheat flour
- 7 tsp. baking powder
- ⅓ cup candied lemon peel (German Citronat)
- ⅓ cup candied orange peel (German Orangeat)
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 Tbs. baking cocoa
- ¾ tsp. ground cloves
- 9 heaping Tbs. cooked and mashed (no butter or milk added) potatoes, cold
- Oblaten (baking wafers) 2 inch diameter
- Glaze: German Schokoladenglasur (chocolate glaze) or melted chocolate chips
- Decoration: Whole almonds

Beat eggs and sugar until fluffy. Add nuts, flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking cocoa, ground cloves and cold, cooked mashed potatoes and mix well. Chop lemon and orange peel finely (this can easily be done in a food processor – add some flour to keep the peel from sticking to the knives). Add to mixture. Place one heaping teaspoon of mixture on each baking wafer. Flatten and smooth with a knife dipped in cold water.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees and bake Lebkuchen for 15 minutes or until light golden. Cool.

Melt chocolate glaze or chips and spread over Lebkuchen. Place one whole almond on top.

Yield: about 70 small Lebkuchen (cookie size)

Honigkuchen

This treat translates to “honey cakes” and is what the house of the witch in the German fairy tale of “Hansel and Gretel” is made from.

- 1 ½ cups honey
- ½ cup oil
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 5 cups flour
- 4 ½ tsp. baking powder
- 2 ½ cups ground almonds
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ⅛ tsp. ground cloves
- pinch of salt
- 3 eggs
- ⅓ cup candied lemon peel (German Citronat)
- ⅓ cup candied orange peel (German Orangeat)
- (you can also substitute ⅔ cups of diced mixed candied fruit)
- 3 Tbs. evaporated milk

Decoration: candied cherries, halved sliced almonds Combine honey and oil in a small saucepan and bring to the boiling point, stirring constantly. Cool. Sift flour and baking powder into a large bowl. Add almonds, spices, eggs, candied lemon and orange peel (or candied fruit) and mix well. Add honey/oil mixture and work into a smooth dough. Divided dough in half and place in two greased 9-inch by 13-inch baking pans. Spread evenly and pat down with wet hands. Cover and rest in refrigerator for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Brush dough with evaporated milk.

Mark 18 squares in each pan with a knife. Decorate each square with a cherry in the middle and an almond slice in each corner.

Bake on middle rack for about 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool and cut into marked squares.

Yield: 48 Honigkuchen squares.



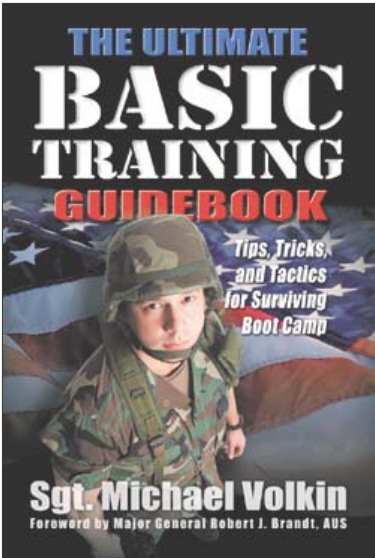
Photo by Nick D'Amario

A delicious assortment of Lebkuchen prepared by Martina Bias for this issue’s Food & Culture feature article.



Photos by Alice Adler and Nick D'Amario

Folks on both sides of the counter had a grand time with the bountiful food served up at USAG Grafenwoehr dining facilities Nov. 24.



Decoding the mystery that is HOOAH

by **Sgt. Michael Volkin**
Author, Ultimate Basic Training Guide Book

One of the most widely used military acronyms of all times, and no one can agree on its spelling, origin or even on its meaning for that matter.

Undoubtedly it will be the first acronym you will hear as you arrive at Basic Training. You will hear thousands of new Soldiers utter the acronym, whisper it, shout it and even sing it. But what exactly does it mean? Heck, is it even an acronym at all?

I have scoured the internet, referenced books, and asked military scholars. Only one conclusion has become of my research: There is no known origin for the meaning of hooah; many have opinions but there is no single theory.

Personally, when I went through Basic Training, I was taught the acronym HUA stood for I **h**ear you, I **u**nderstand you, and I **a**cknowledge your startement. Urbanictionary.com claims the term *hooah* was originally used by the British in the late 1800’s in Afghanistan; then, more recently adopted by the United States Army to indicate an affirmative or a pleased response.

The book *Absolutely American: Culture War at West Point* defines *huah* as “an all-purpose expression”...if you “want to describe a cadet who’s very gung-ho, you call them *huah*...” if you “understand instructions, say *huah*...” if you “agree with what another cadet just said, murmur *huah*.”

Perhaps the broadest definition I have come across in my research might very well be the best, and even

most comical definition. If I had a prize to award, I would give it to the Department of Military Science and Leadership, University of Tennessee, who claim HOOAH “refers to or means anything except no.”

And so while military experts and personnel alike disagree on the term, spelling, origin and meaning of HUA, huah, hooah, etc., it remains to be widely used throughout the military.

Regardless of its meaning, a common aspect encompasses each of the definitions for this term. The term is an expression of high morale, confidence, motivation and spirit.

Editor’s note: Printed with special permission of the author. Visit his site at www.ultimatebasictraining.com

Sports

MHS Wrestling is tough, builds character

Team wants community support in 2006 season

by **Kathy Jordan**
Training Times

As the winter sports season begins at Vilseck Middle High School, the wrestling team prepares to take on some big challenges, on and off the matt.

The team consists of over 20 young athletes raring-to-go and using the skills they have learned to defeat their opponents.

Robbie Swint, second year coach, looks forward to seeing the team grow using different techniques they have learned while in practice. “I like wrestling because it uses a lot of technique. A lot of people think you have to be strong or you have to be big. It’s a thinking sport opposed to a sport that you use strength with like football. You always have to be thinking, because if you don’t your opponent will wear you down.”

For the last three years, eleventh-grader Kevin Grier has been wrestling at the high school and enjoys the challenge, lumps and bruises that the sport brings.

“I find it interesting. It’s fun and strategic. You have to think while you wrestle because if you don’t you will get slammed, and that hurts.”

The love of the sport keeps students involved in their academic studies according to twelfth-grader Ricky Dunbar.

“It’s something to do; it helps me keep my grades up. It challenges me to do better in class because if I want to be eligible for the next match, I have to have good grades.”

Wrestling has helped build character and motivate tenth grader DeMario Galbreath to try other types of sports and challenge his abilities.

“It’s a tough sport and I like it. It gets my momentum up. It motivates me. It makes me want to do more things in other sports.”

For newcomers to the sport, Galbreath has some simple advice he thinks can help others make the best of their wrestling experience.

be afraid. Of course you are going to win some and lose some. It is all about strategy when you have done this for a while.”

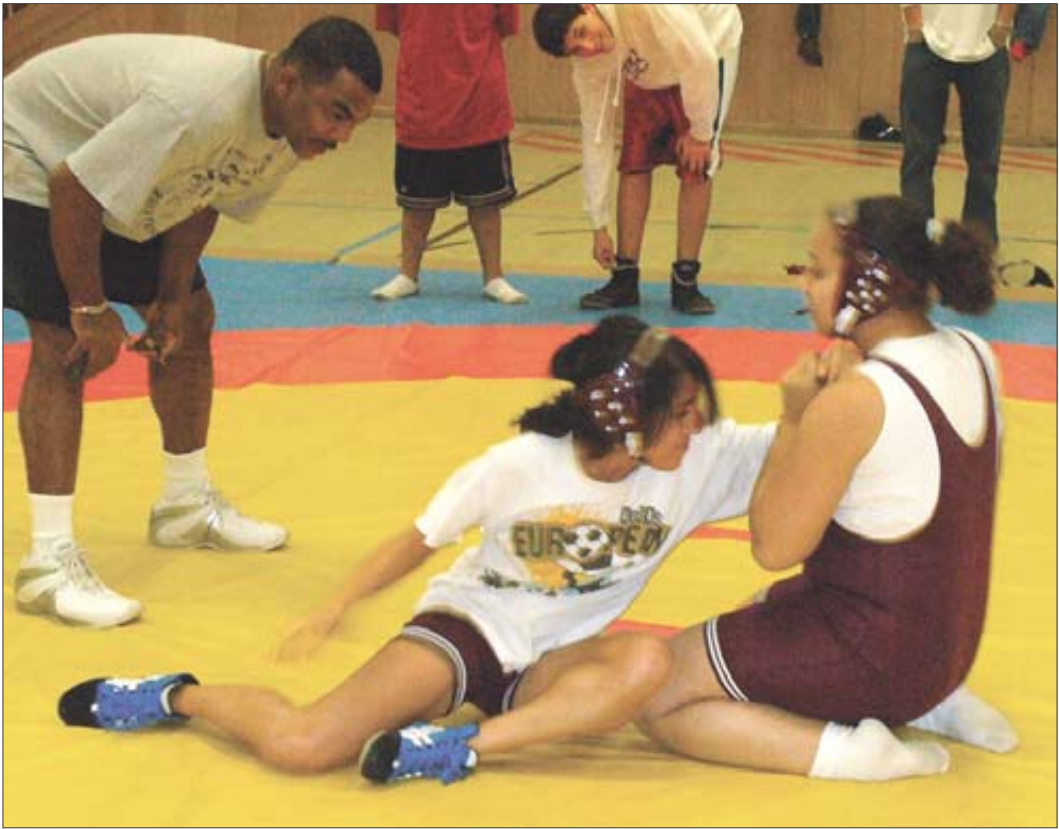


Photo by Kathy Jordan

Gabrielle Owens and Harley Reyna-Reyes work together as Coach Swint looks on.

“I have been wrestling on the varsity team since I was in junior high. I am a two-time state champion in freestyle wrestling. Just get in there and go for what you know. Don’t go in there and

In the Galbreath household wrestling is a family sport.

“My little brother Dion is a wrestler and he is really good. He is aggressive and he is strong. He

is a one-time state champion. He is going to be on the varsity team with me,” said Galbreath.

Vilseck has two females on the wrestling team that enjoy the challenge the sport offers, but have different reasons for wanting to be on the team. For twelfth-grader Harley Reyna-Reyes it was the challenge that caught her attention. “This is the first time I have ever tried wrestling. I wanted to do something different. I’ve done all the other sports. Friends talked to me and encouraged me. I know there are not that many girls that do it, so I wanted to try,” Reyes said.

“I want to ruin guy’s pride,” said seventh grader Gabrielle Owens.

Volunteer assistant coach Nigarer Brown has been wrestling for over twelve years and was looking for an opportunity to help others learn and grow in the sport.

“I saw the team in the gym, and wrestling is something I like to do. It’s good for stress relief. You have to be pretty energetic and have good endurance. I just came back from down range. Most of my time here I have been in and out of Iraq,” said Brown.

The idea of giving back to others through volunteering has not been lost on Brown as he remembered the help that was given to him.

“I always wanted to come out and help the wrestling team. I like helping out, and volunteering is a good way to do it. It’s about giving back. When I started out in wrestling I had a whole lot of coaches who volunteered and helped me. Now that I have the experience, I want to volunteer and help others out,” Brown said.

Swint looks forward to having a productive season.

“We are going to take each wrestling meet one at a time. We will work on building different techniques as we go through the year. I think the program here is better than it was last year. We are better conditioned this year and we have wrestlers that want to wrestle. Our first home meet is Jan. 14, and we would appreciate the community coming out to support us.”

Turkey Trotters brave the cold in Hohenfels

5K run celebrates AFTB anniversary

by **Tracie West**
AFTB Program Manager

While Nov. 19 was one of the coldest days so far this winter in Hohenfels, it did not stop MWR Sports and Army Family Team Building Turkey Trot participants.

The 33 participants came with earmuffs and gloves, and were eager to run or walk the 5K course. In honor of AFTB’s 11th birthday celebration, the top finisher in each category received an AFTB gym bag. The top three finishers in each category received a plaque and water bottle. All participants received Turkey Trot t-shirts.

The top finishers were:

MEN	TIME
1ST Place – Charles Givens	18:44
2ND Place – Wendell Dougirent	20:54
3RD Place – Shane Stankiewicz	21:32

WOMEN	
1ST Place – Megan Florkowski	22:21
2ND Place – Susan Biegeleisen	24:45
3RD Place – Tammy Bagdasarian	25:58

WOMEN Under 18	
1ST Place – Alejandra Sandoval	34:57

MEN Under 18	
1ST Place – Michael Dove	24:54

2ND Place – Andrew Vanausdoll	31:17
3RD Place – Isaiah Ansari	32:22

The Turkey Trot could not have taken place without the help of our wonderful volunteers.

MWR Sports and AFTB would like to thank our volunteers who assisted in conducting this race.

The race was a great success due in part to volunteers such as you.

HHC 1/4 Infantry
SGT Richard Kern
PV2 Philip Myers

Ops Grp (Blacksheep)
SFC Charles Freeman
SGT Michael Pitts
SPC Eric England

AFTB
Michelle Perdido
Quil Lambert
Janice Ansari
Katie Bradfield



Runners are all smiles and thumbs-up after participating in Hohenfels’ very cold Nov. 19 Turkey Trot.

Photo by Tracie West

NOW
 SHOWING

★★★★★★
 All shows, dates
 and times are
 correct at time
 of publication!
 by Chris Litch
 AAFES
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MOVIES BEGIN 7 P.M. AND MATINEES 1 P.M.

(09662-83-1790)

7 Dec	Wed	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) F&F Night
8 Dec	Thur	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
9 Dec	Fri	Walk the Line (PG-13) Premiere
10 Dec	Sat	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
11 Dec	Sun	Serenity (PG-13)
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed
14 Dec	Wed	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG) Premiere
15 Dec	Thur	The Cave (PG-13)
16 Dec	Fri	Harry Potter /The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
17 Dec	Sat	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)
18 Dec	Sun	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG) Matinee
18 Dec	Sun	Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag (G)
19 Dec	Mon	Closed
20 Dec	Tue	Closed
21 Dec	Wed	Red Eye (PG-13) F&F Night
22 Dec	Thur	Aeon Flux (PG-13)
23 Dec	Fri	The Chronicles of Narnia (PG) Premiere
24 Dec	Sat	Closed
25 Dec	Sun	Closed
26 Dec	Mon	Closed
27 Dec	Tue	Closed
28 Dec	Wed	The Great Game Ever Played (PG)
29 Dec	Thur	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
30 Dec	Fri	Serenity (PG-13)
31 Dec	Sat	Closed

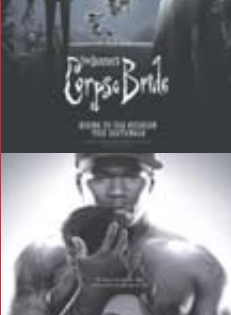
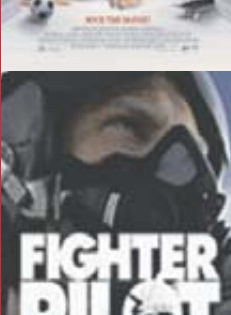
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7 Dec	Wed	Harry Potter /The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) F&F Night
8 Dec	Thur	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
9 Dec	Fri	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG) Premiere
10 Dec	Sat	No Movie..... USO Show
11 Dec	Sun	Harry Potter /The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed
14 Dec	Wed	Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag (G)
15 Dec	Thur	Walk the Line (PG-13) Premiere
16 Dec	Fri	The Great Game Ever Played (PG)
17 Dec	Sat	Serenity (PG-13)
18 Dec	Sun	The Great Game Ever Played (PG)
18 Dec	Sun	The Man (PG-13)
19 Dec	Mon	Closed
20 Dec	Tue	Closed
21 Dec	Wed	Aeon Flux (PG-13) F&F Night
22 Dec	Thur	Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag (G)
23 Dec	Fri	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
24 Dec	Sat	Closed
25 Dec	Sun	Closed
26 Dec	Mon	Closed
27 Dec	Tue	Closed
28 Dec	Wed	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)
29 Dec	Thur	The Chronicles of Narnia (PG) Premiere
30 Dec	Fri	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
31 Dec	Sat	Closed

(09641-83-1790)

7 Dec	Wed	Closed
8 Dec	Thur	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)
9 Dec	Fri	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
10 Dec	Sat	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
11 Dec	Sun	Matinee is Cancel for Community Holiday Ballet Recital
11 Dec	Sun	Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag (G)
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed
14 Dec	Wed	Closed
15 Dec	Thur	Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
16 Dec	Fri	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG) Premiere
17 Dec	Sat	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
18 Dec	Sun	Aeon Flux (PG-13)
19 Dec	Mon	Closed
20 Dec	Tue	Closed
21 Dec	Wed	Closed
22 Dec	Thur	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
23 Dec	Fri	The Great Game Ever Played (PG)
24 Dec	Sat	Closed
25 Dec	Sun	Closed
26 Dec	Mon	Closed
27 Dec	Tue	Closed
28 Dec	Wed	Closed
29 Dec	Thur	Serenity (PG-13)
30 Dec	Fri	The Chronicles of Narnia (PG) Premiere
31 Dec	Sat	Closed

THEATERS



Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
 Rated PG-13 (sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images)
 Running Time: 150min.
 Stars: Daniel Radcliff, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint
 Synopsis:
 In his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry faces his greatest challenges and dangers yet. When he is selected under mysterious circumstances as a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, Harry must compete against the best young wizards from schools all over Europe. But as he prepares, signs begin to point to the return of Lord Voldemort.
Walk the Line
 Rated PG-13 (some language, thematic material and depiction of drug dependency)
 Running Time: 135min.
 Stars: Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon
 Synopsis:
 Walk the line explores the early years of the music legend.As his music changed the world, the woman who became the love of his life rocked Cash's own world: June Carter.
Cry Wolf
 Rated PG-13 (violence, terror, disturbing images, language, sexuality, drug reference)
 Running Time: 90min.
 Stars: Julian Morris, Jon Bon Jovi
 Synopsis:
 Owen Matthews is sent to prestigious Westlake Prep - where a young woman has recently been found murdered in the dark woods near the boarding school's campus.

Get Rich or Die Tryin'
 Rated R (violence, language, sexuality and a drug reference)
 Running Time: 134min.
 Stars: Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson
 Synopsis:
 An orphaned street kid makes his mark in the drug trade, but dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.
Yours, Mine & Ours
 Rated PG (mild crude humor)
 Running Time: 90min.
 Stars: Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo, Linda Hunt, Rip Tom and James Lil"JJ" Lewis
 Synopsis:
 Frank with eight kids. Helen with 10. When they get married and decide to pack the entire clan under one roof, the only thing that will get the kids together is the job of breaking their parents apart.
The Exorcism Of Emily Rose
 Rated PG-13 (thematic material, including intense/frightening sequences and disturbing images)
 Running Time: 114min.
 Stars: Jennifer Carpenter, Tom Wilkinson and Laura Linney
 Synopsis:
 'The Exorcism of Emily Rose' chronicles the haunting trial of the priest accused of negligence resulting in the death of the young girl believed to be possessed and the lawyer who takes on the task of defending him.

The Greatest Game Ever Played
 Rated PG (some brief mild language)
 Running Time: 115min.
 Stars: Even Stevens, Shia LaBeouf
 Synopsis:
 A golf drama based on the true story of the 1913 US Open, where 20-year-old Francis Ouimet defeated reigning champion Harry Vardon.
Tim Burton's Corpse Bride
 Rated PG (some scary images and action, and brief mild language)
 Running Time: 76min.
 Stars: Johnny Depp, Bonham Carter and Emily Watson
 Synopsis:
 Follows the story of Victor, a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Victor learns that there is nothing in this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love.

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Aeon Flux
 Rated PG-13 (sequences of violence and sexual content)
 Running Time: 98min.
 Stars: Charlize Theron, Sophie Okonedo, Frances McDormand and Johnny Lee Miller
 Synopsis:
 Set 400 years in the future in a world where humans have nearly been wiped out by a virus and the remains of mankind live in a city encased in a protective bubble, Aeon Flux, an acrobatic super heroine, is assigned to kill the government leader.
The Chronicles of Narnia
 The Chronicles Of Narnia
 Rated PG (battle sequences and frightening moments)
 Running Time: 132min.
 Stars: Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, James Cosmo and Elizabeth Hawthorne
 Synopsis:
 During the German air raids of WWII, the four Pevensie children -- Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy -- are sent out of London to take shelter at the country home of eccentric Prof. Digory Kirke, who happens to be the owner of a curious wardrobe. Peering into this wardrobe one day, Lucy finds herself in the snowy land of Narnia, which is mired in never-ending winter thanks to the magic of the evil White Witch, who has proclaimed that it will be always winter but never Christmas in the mystical land.
Red Eye
 Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violence, and language)
 Running Time: 85min.
 Stars: Rachel Mcadams, Cillian Murphy
 Synopsis:
 Lisa Reisert hates to fly, but the terror that awaits her on the night flight to Miami has nothing to do with a fear of flying.
An Unfinished Life
 Rated PG-13 (some violence, including domestic abuse, and language)
 Running Time: 108min.
 Stars: Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman, and Jennifer Lopez
 Synopsis:
 A down on her luck woman, desperate to provide care for her daughter, moves in with her father in-law from whom she is estranged. Through time, they learn to forgive each other and heal old wounds.
Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag
 Rated G (General Audiences)
 Running Time: 40min.
 Stars: Captain John Stratton, Major Robert Novotny and Major Sam Morgan
 Synopsis:
 Red Flag is the final training for pilots and their aircrews before being sent into actual combat. Follow pilot, John Stratton, as he makes his way through this extraordinary event held in the desert of Nevada.
The Cave
 Rated PG-13 (Intense Creature Violence)
 Running Time: 97min.
 Stars: Morris Chestnut, Eddie Cibrain
 Synopsis:
 There are places man was never meant to go. A rescue team is sent down into the world's largest cave system to try to find the spelunkers who first explored its depths. Bloodthirsty creatures await the rescue team who become trapped in an underwater cave network
Serenity
 Rated PG-13 (sequences of intense violence and action, and some sexual references)
 Running Time: 119min.
 Stars: Nathan Fillion and Sean Maher
 Synopsis:
 Captain Malcom Reynolds finds himself running from a skilled Alliance operative, who wants River Tam, and who will stop at nothing to get her.
The Man
 Rated PG-13 (some violence, language and some crude humor)
 Running Time: 84min.
 Stars: Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy
 Synopsis:
 Special agent Derrick Vann is a man out to get the man who killed his partner but a case of mistaken identity leads him to Andy Fidler.

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